

Situating Hezekiah Anderson's land¹

Administrator sale, 28 April 1834: When Hezekiah's administrator, James Lee, sold his land it was described as 125 acres in the 36th district, the lower half of a 250-acre tract granted to Joseph Jackson and bounded NE by the Savannah River, SE & SW by **John Reeves**, SE by **John Thompson** and NW by the other half of the Jackson survey.² *Still unanswered:* Hezekiah bought 200 acres of this tract and no deeds have been found wherein he or his Administrator sold the other 75 acres.

Original tract: The original 250-acre tract was situated in Effingham County when it was surveyed for Joseph Jackson on 28 August 1788. It was described as bounded SE by John Casper Wertsch now but formerly Thomas Keesee, SE and SW by Abraham Ravot now but formerly Samuel Hudson decd, NW by unknown, NE by the Savannah River. It was granted in January 1789.³

Mary Deveaux to Hezekiah Anderson, 27 April 1816: Hezekiah bought this land from Mary Olivia Deveaux of Chatham County but he bought 200 acres, described as being bounded on the E by the Savannah River, the N by William McCall and the other sides by Thomas Gibbons.⁴ Mary sold the other 50 acres of this tract on the same date to Benjamin T. Mock, described as bounded on the E by Thomas Gibbons, the W by R. Wayne, the S by William McCall and the N by John Thompson.⁵

Motts to Mary O. Deveaux, 10 April 1808: Neither of the Deveaux deeds name Joseph Jackson as the original grantee but when she bought the land from Abraham and Esabell Mott, it was described as 125 acres, one half of a 250-acre tract granted to Joseph Jackson in 1889 [sic] adjoining the lands of Thomas Gibbons and William McCall.⁶ *Still unanswered:* research into the deeds in Screven County where the land was eventually located, and in Effingham County where it was situated when surveyed, has yielded none that record how and when the Motts acquired the land they sold to Mary Deveaux, or how and when she acquired the other half of the tract.

Where this land was located

Exploring land records can be like going down a rabbit hole and this was especially true trying to figure out where Hezekiah Anderson's 125 acres was situated. Screven was created primarily from Burke and Effingham counties in 1793 and the adjoining landowners named in the Jackson survey were granted their tracts during the colonial

¹ Records cited in this review were accessed between 15 and 26 November 2020. The FHL microfilm and image numbers are included for records accessed as digitized images from *FamilySearch.org* to make it easier for others to locate the record through the Catalog (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>).

² Screven County, Georgia, Deed Book M: 2-3, images 212-213, microfilm no. 222473, *FamilySearch.org*. The location of the 36th militia district is shown in the attachments.

³ Headright and Bounty Plats, images, *Georgia Archives Virtual Vault* (<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/>); Register of grants, Vol. RRR, image 164, microfilm no. 4720690, *FamilySearch.org*.

⁴ Screven Co. Deed Book K: 4, image 234, microfilm no. 222472, *FamilySearch.org*.

⁵ Screven Co. Deed Book I: 324, image 188, same microfilm no.

⁶ *Ibid.*: 22, image 34.

period when that part of Effingham County was still called St. Matthew Parish.⁷ Based on a fairly exhaustive review of survey warrants, surveys, grants⁸ and deeds in Effingham and Screven counties, I believe that Hezekiah's land was situated in the vicinity of tracts plotted by Daniel Crumpton and shown on the attached pages:⁹

- William McCall's 1804 survey¹⁰ names an Anderson and Joseph Jackson as adjoining landowners, so Andersons were apparently living in that area before Hezekiah bought part of the Jackson tract. McCall's neighbor, Stephen Pearce, was granted this land in February 1799; the grant, his survey warrant and the survey all name Jackson as an adjoining landowner.
- Joseph Anderson was a chain carrier on Stephen Pearce's 1809 survey so he may have been a neighbor. Pearce sold this land to Thomas Gibbons in 1810.¹¹
- The land of Samuel Hudson and Thomas Kesee, named in the Jackson survey, was bought by Abraham Ravot and was among the nine tracts Ravot sold in 1791.¹² Thomas Gibbons purchased five of these tracts in 1825 but this deed includes tracts he had *already* bought in 1804 and 1810,¹³ and he was named as an adjoining landowner of the Jackson land in the 1808 and 1816 deeds.
- Thomas Gibbons died in Chatham County in 1826, having devised all of this land to his granddaughter Hannah Gibbons, who sold it to John S. Reeves in January 1834. The description of the Stephen Pearce tract includes a proviso that "a claim of one Thompson for a few acres where the survey runs upon land claimed by the said Thompson is not hereby intended to be embraced in the warranty but the party of the second part takes the land subject to the claim of Thompson."¹⁴ This could explain why John Reeves and John Thompson were named as adjoining landowners when Hezekiah Anderson's land was sold by his Administrator several months later.

⁷ Ravot, Hudson, Kesee and Wertsch were found in Marion R. Hemperley's *English Crown Grants in St. Matthew Parish in Georgia, 1755-1775*; a digitized version of this book is available at *FamilySearch.org*.

⁸ Survey warrants and grants can be found in "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909" at *FamilySearch.org*. Surveys cited came mostly from Headright and Bounty Plats at *Georgia Archives Virtual Vault* and Screven County, Georgia, Land plats, 1794-1912, microfilm no. 222543 at *FamilySearch.org*, but several were purchased from *Crumpton Plats* (<https://www.crumptonplats.com>).

⁹ Daniel Nathan Crumpton, *Burke County, Georgia Land Records: Boundaries as of 1777* (Warrenton, Ga.: by author, 2009), pp. xvii, 159 and 164.

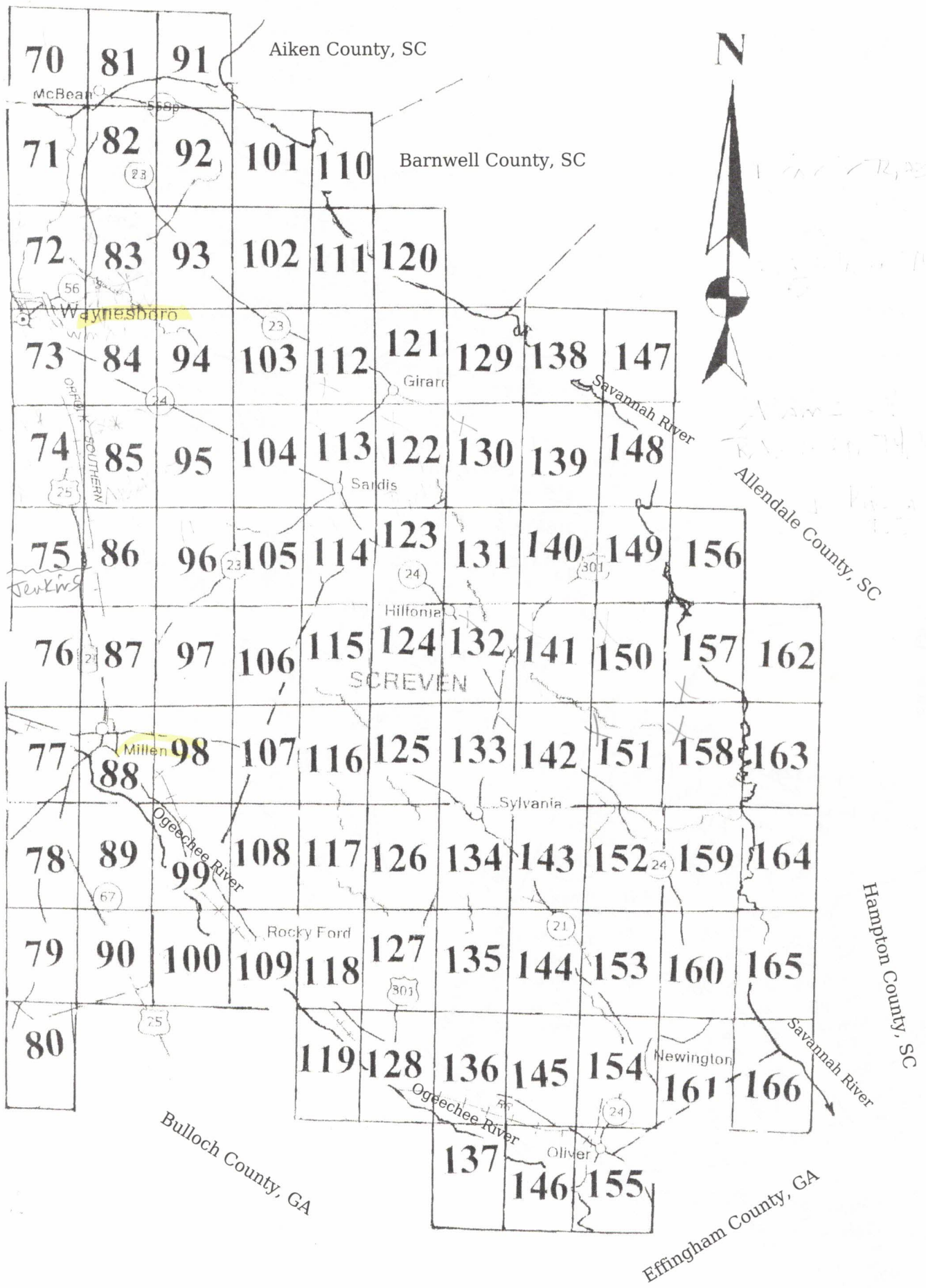
¹⁰ Headright and Bounty Plats, images, *Georgia Archives Virtual Vault*.

¹¹ Pearce's survey is from *Georgia Archives Virtual Vault*. The deed is from Screven Co. Deed Book L: 119-120, images 82-83, microfilm no. 222473, *FamilySearch.org*. It was executed and proved by the grantors on 27 January 1810 but not recorded until March 1825.

¹² Effingham County, Georgia, Deed Book A & B: 339-344, images 182-184, microfilm no. 180331, *FamilySearch.org*.

¹³ Screven Co. Deed Book L: 127-128, images 86-87, *FamilySearch.org*. Gibbons bought the 680 acres from William Miller in 1804 (Deed Book A: 375, image 221); 300 acres granted to or purchased by John C. Wertsch and sold by his administrator in 1804 (Deed Book A: 372, image 220) and the tract from Stephen Pearce in 1810 (cited above). Further research will be needed to sort out this conundrum.

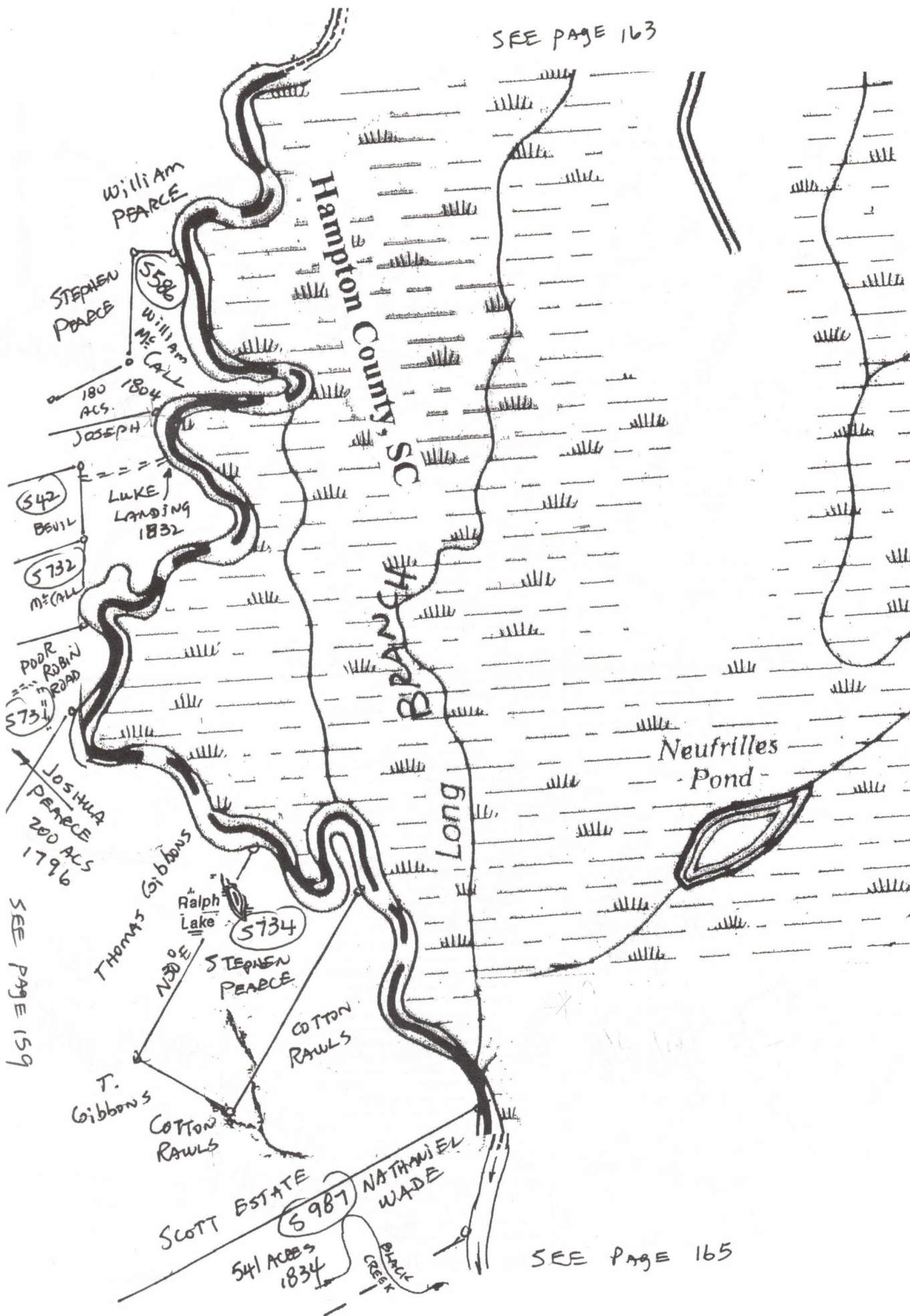
¹⁴ Screven Co. Deed Book L: 494-496, images 273-274, *FamilySearch.org*. Thomas Gibbons' will comes from "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," database and images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com>).

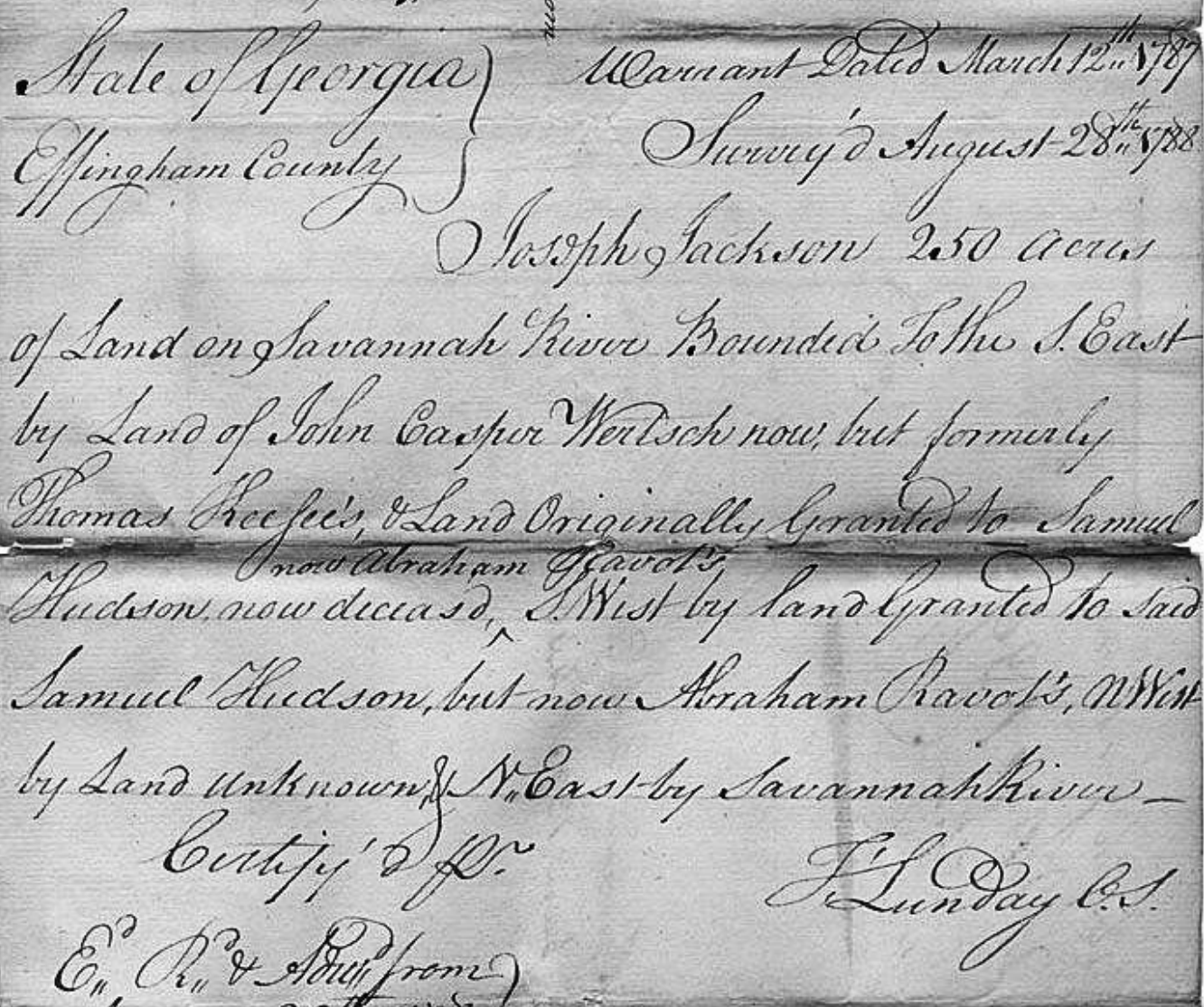




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